

JAMES, ALMIRA MOORE
AND MARY MURDOCK
DUKE



James Duke, eldest son of Jonathan Oldham and Mary Stone Duke, was born in Albany, New York, December 21, 1829. He married Almira Moore on October 10, 1851. They were parents of 11 children: James Moore, Almira Jane, Ethan Allen, Robert Stone, John Calvin, Joseph Moroni, Helaman, Mahonri M., Lamoni Roy, Bernice Gertrude, and Sarah.

James Duke married Mary Murdoch in October, 1868, as a plural wife. She and James were parents of eight children. James died at Wallsburg on the 20th of May, 1892.

With his parents, James Duke came to Nauvoo in 1840, and as a boy of 11 years he saw and heard Joseph and Hyrum Smith preach many times. He remembered many of the sufferings and persecutions of the Mormon people in and around Nauvoo.

In 1850 the family started for Utah. James was a teamster and hunter. He was taken down with mountain fever and they had to lay over until he was able to travel. They soon overtook the main company.

They lived the first winter in the Twelfth Ward in Salt Lake City, but in the spring of 1851 they moved to Provo and built a home. He worked as a mason and helped to build some of the first buildings in Provo.

In 1860 he came to Heber. He was president of the dramatic association for some years, also a prominent actor in early days, when people had to furnish their own entertainment. He was a drummer in the Territorial Militia during the Black Hawk War, in 1866 and 1867. He sometimes acted as an Indian interpreter. He built the old Heber tithing office and President Hatch's first house in Heber. He also had a farm.

In October, 1868, he married Mary Murdoch as a plural wife, and she bore him eight children, named in their mother's history.

He built a home in Wallsburg for his first wife and family. He was a very friendly man and was one of the main promoters of amusements in early days. He was a member of the High Priests' Quorum, and was a firm believer in the Gospel. Although he never received much of this world's goods, he was rich in kind words and deeds, and the love and goodwill of all his associates.

MARY M. MURDOCK
DUKE RYAN



Mary M. Murdoch Duke Ryan was born in a small tent on the bank of a stream about nine miles from Kansas City. A terrible thunderstorm was raging when she was born. She was the third child. The two older children had died a short time before of cholera. The pioneer camp was quarantined for the disease. Mary's mother was very sick, but with the help of the Lord she was soon able to walk and carry her baby to Salt Lake City. It was nine months from the time they left Scotland until they arrived at their destination. She lived in Salt Lake City for eight years before coming to Heber.

She endured a typical pioneer's life in rearing her family. She was a good dress-maker and was able to take care of her family well until they were able to care for themselves. Then she lived with Dr. David Crawford Lindsay, caring for their baby until they left Heber. Later she went to care for David Keith Jr. She took a world tour with the Keiths. She lived with them until young David needed a governess. After returning to Heber she married

William Ryan and lived several happy years until her death.

over →



The Wasatch Stake Tithing Office, built in 1888 on Main Street in Heber, was an important building during the years when so much tithing was paid "in kind."

level was divided into bins for storage of different grains. A stairway and also a hand-operated elevator connected the two stories.

A large hay barn and hay shed occupied the east portion of the block. At harvest time it was quite common to have both buildings filled with hay and several stacks of hay in the yard. As many as 15 loads of hay would often be unloaded in a day as conscientious farmers gave their "tenth" to the Lord.

Elder Moulton, the tithing clerk, worked long hours to receive and account for the tithing paid "in kind." He usually opened the office at 7 a.m. and rarely closed before 6 p.m. He had to help with all the unloading and handling of the products. As there was no railroad service, all of the commodities shipped to Salt Lake City or other areas had to go out by wagon. At one time more than 300 bushels of potatoes were shipped from Heber and Wallsburg. The tithing clerk also had to do the painting and repairing of the buildings, and make out all the reports that were sent to the Presiding Bishop's Office in Salt Lake City.

Other tithing clerks who followed Elder Moulton included George Harbour, William Lindsay and Robert Duke.

Some years after the construction of the tithing office a remodeling project was carried out to add a baptismal font in the east room on the main floor. Prior to this the stake had conducted baptismal services once each summer at the Provo River, Spring Creek, the Millpond or some other designated place. The day was always an occasion as families

gathered in their wagons or buggies, on horseback or on foot to participate in the "baptizing day."

Authorities of the stake realized the need for a baptismal font where the ordinance could regularly be performed, and so the facilities were constructed in the tithing office where services were held monthly.

A devastating fire on the grounds and out-buildings surrounding the tithing office broke out during a peaceful night in the fall of 1903, and before the bucket brigade could bring sufficient water to the scene the hay, barns and sheds were destroyed. The brigade saved the tithing office itself, however. This fire virtually brought an end to the payment of tithing "in kind." Farmers were urged to sell their produce and pay their tithes in cash. More adequate baptismal facilities were constructed in the new high school seminary building about this time, also, and the usefulness of the tithing office began to wane. The building was sold to Labon Hylton who converted it into two apartments, and then sold the property to Lowe Ashton who constructed a modern service station on the site.



BISHOP THOMAS RASBAND
first bishop of Heber East Ward.

When Bishop Thomas Rasband of Heber East Ward died Robert S. Duke was called as the new bishop. His counselors were Orson Hicken and Henry Ohlwiler. Bishop Duke served until 1901 when he was ordained a Patriarch of the Wasatch Stake. However, the ward didn't lose Bishop Duke, for his son, Robert Duke became the new bishop, with Orson Hicken and George Wootton as counselors.

In the West Ward, Bishop Forman served until 1885 when he was succeeded by Bishop Henry Clegg. Thomas Hicken Jr. was sustained as the third bishop of the ward in 1894 and served until 1902 when he moved with his family to Raymond, Alberta, Canada. At the time he moved, plans were underway by the stake presidency to dissolve the two Heber Wards and create three new wards, so no new bishop was sustained.

Those who served in leadership capacities in the East and West Wards before the reorganization were as follows: